75. Rs. 1,23,405 under A Civil Engineering "29. Communications—Maintenance"

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 1,23,405 under "29—A—Civil Engineering—Communication maintenance". The allotment for the maintenance of roads in the current year's budget is Rs. 2,31,777. Due to the high rates of tender that prevail at present, this allotment is found insufficient. I therefore move for this additional allotment.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I want a piece of information, Sir. It was promised on the floor of this House that the trunk road in Mattancheri would be put right soon. On account of the damage caused by Military lorries going along that road, the road is in a bad condition. Even this morning, I found it in a very bad state. I wonder whether the attention of the Department has been drawn to it and whether remedial measures will be taken up immediately.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The maintenance of that road is being taken up now.

Demand put and carried

76. Rs. 50,000 under "29—A—Civil Engineering—Irrigation—Original"

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 50,000 under "29—A—Civil Engineering—Irrigation Original". The scheme of storing water for the benefit of the kole lands was tried this year. The cost of storage arrangements made at Mullurkayal and Perimpilisseri areas came to Rs. 50,000 as per details which I am enumerating. An additional allotment of Rs. 50,000 is necessary under this head. The details are:

Bunding and pumping the areas at Mullurkayal and Perimpilisseri came to Rs. 24,884. Compensation to be paid to the owners of puncha and kole lands which were utilised for the storage at Mullurkayal came to Rs. 22,580. For similar lands utilised for storage at Perimpilisseri the expenditure came to a sum of Rs. 1,500. Thus, the total comes to about Rs. 50,000. I request the House may be pleased to grant this.

Cut Motion

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Sir, I beg to move that this allotment of Rs. 50,000 for cost of storage at Mullurkayal and Perimpilisseri areas be reduced by Rs. 44,965. I may bring to the notice of the Hon'ble House that I do not seek to include in the cut motion items 2 and 5 noted in the note to the Standing Finance Committee. The items are bunding at Perimpilisseri, estimated at Rs. 3,535 and compensation for lands included in the Perimpilisseri storage scheme Rs. 1,500. I may at once submit that I do not include them, not because there may not be complaints about them, but because I am personally not well-versed with the fact and to my knowledge and information as yet no complaints have been brought to the notice of the Government or of this House. My objections to the allotment of this amount, Sir, are; in the first place when an identical motion for an allotment of additional grant was moved by the Government before this Hon'ble House in the last Budget session, I had then brought to the notice of the Government, as well as of this Hon'ble House that there are any number of complaints about this scheme and that there are other remedial measures equally open which may entertain and engage the attention of the Hon'ble Government. I may bring to the notice of the Hon'ble House the discussion upon that matter reported on page 423 of Volume 11, Part X, of the authorised reports of the Budget Session. It was pointedly brought to the notice of the Government that this scheme can be avoided by the old existing system of raising the water level at the Enammavu Bund and I may be permitted to bring to the notice of this Hon'ble House the relevant portions of the reply that was given to the Hon'ble House by the Hon'ble Member for Engineering. I suggested, Sir, that it may be possible to ward of this fear of draught if that was adverted to and taken up. The answer that the Hon'ble Member for Engineering did give was—I shall read only the relevant portions—

"But if the water level in the kole lands is kept at the usual level then this storage may not be necessary. But the difficulty in getting pumps, bomboos and things like that will make it difficult for the ryots to cultivate their lands with increased pumping and bunding operations. This is a matter which is being considered by the Government and I cannot say a definite answer to this question".

Further on, the Hon'ble Member for Engineering was pleased to say in reply to questions: "Provided you keep the water level in Enamakkal about 1 foot 6 inches high. It may be fairly well said we can get through a crop safely even though there are no rains". And the difficulites that were pointed out in that matter were as stated

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on page 424 "It is not only a question of funds. There is this difficulty of getting pumps. It is also necessary to see that the amount of pumping to be done is kept at a minimum". Though the main objections to the humble suggestions that I made on the floor of this House were that there will be little more time occupied by pumping and there will be difficulty in getting bamboos and also certain materials for putting up bunds, it may kindly be recollected, Sir, that the amount that was spent upon this scheme last year was Rs. 42,000 by way of additional allotment and an earlier amount of about Rs. 11,000, so that in the total, it comes to Rs. 51,000 and more. This year, as now demanded in the supplementary grant, I find under item 76 this amount of Rs. 50,000 and odd and also for the same purpose under items 81 and 82 on which I have tabled other cut-motions, another Rs. 50,000 and odd. The total comes to over a lakh and odd rupees. In this my first objection to the grant is on principle and that is, when this matter was expressly and explicitly brought to the notice of the Government at the last Budget Session and I took exception not only upon the financial commitments of this House or of the Government, but also upon the objections of the ryots affected by this, the Government had sufficient notice that this is a matter which would certainly call for a discussion and expression of opinion of this side of the House. The Government did not bring forward the matter for discussion and court the opinion of the House, but safely avoided it. This scheme was taken up only by the end of Vrischigam. There were at least three sittings of this Council. Though not at the Budget Session, but in the Legislative Sessions, it was open for the Government on any one of these occasions to bring forward this matter to the notice of the House and see what we have to say in the matter, whether they may be pleased to accept it or not, is a different matter. That the Government has not chosen to do it, is something which I take serious objection to and submit it for the consideration of the Hon'ble House. It is not to the credit of this House to be told that the Government have spent an amount to the tune of a lakh and odd rupees and then to come to the House and to be told. "You see, we have spent all these amounts for such-and-such. So please grant this additional allotment". My respectful submission to this House is, to say the least, it is an insult to the dignity of this House, if the word is permissible. It is upon the principle upon which this additional allotment is based that I oppose it, Sir. Upon the details contained in that, I have got objections, upon nine main heads. I do not know whether the Hon'ble President will be pleased to allow me to continue after 1-30).

Mr. President: How much time does the Hon'ble Member require to complete his speech.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Sir, I may be allowed the maximum time that the Chair may be pleased to kindly allow me under the Rules.

Mr. President: The maximum time I can allow is that prescribed under the Standing Orders. The Hon'ble Member may have that time and nothing more.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Thank you, Sir. My objection is that when the scheme was first started no notice was ever given to the owners of lands whose cultivation and whose work were to be affected by the scheme by the deluge of their properties. Absolutely no previous notice was given by the Government, this year also, though the scheme was perfectly in the conscience of the Government and probably in their contemplation. The acreage or the probable extent that may be covered by the scheme is also yet unknown, and we get only some round, approximate figures—about 605 acres of kole and puncha lands and something of virippu, and mundakan lands and all together making a total of 950 to 1000 acres. We are yet to know how many acres of virippu lands are to be affected, how many acres of mundakan crops are to be affected. That is the manner in which the system is worked out. The owners of lands who have raised mundakan crops do not get any chance to save them, because water is pumped in, in no time, the field is filled with water, so that crops which are ripe for harvest within a week or ten days get sub-merged under water and all the corn is lost and also the straw. Another point that I would press for the consideration of the Hon'ble House is that no adequate compensation is granted to those who are affected. There are, Sir, tenants on these lands who have not received anything, who had to sell their ploughs and other implements of agriculture and seek employment elsewhere, depending upon the compensation in money to be awarded by the Government, whether it is sufficient, inadequate or something which they may not care to receive. The next point is the distress of persons who have got cattle to feed and houses to thatch with straw. No amount of money can bring one grain of corn in these days of food control and straw is, Sir, something which we know, something which practically we have found, very difficult to get even for fodder, and much less therefore for purposes of thatching houses. These are things which cultivators can get by their honest labour upon however small the slice of land that may be available for cultivation. No amount of money compensation I submit Sir, will be an

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adequate compensation for the loss of all these products and for the amenities that an agriculturist may get by his actual occupation and cultivation. Now that the property is acquired, he has to go in for other cooly work, even women and children have to go for work elsewhere on other people's farms. And what is it that they get? The compensation as awarded by the Government based upon calculation income. The calculation of income sometimes may be very capricious. I can quote instances, but I reserve them for another occasion, discussion on the grant for the next year. There are instances which I have come across in my study of the situation in which for lands lying close to each other, adjoining survey numbers, different incomes are calculated. According to the yield calculated from three adjoining survey nubers, one is eight-fold and another is 2 or 3-fold. The sort of capricious distinction brought about in this assessment of loss is something which I would respectfully submit to this Hon'ble House is very very detrimental to the interests of any tenant and I can only ascribe it to the fact, that they are brought about by certain satellites of Departments who probably do not owe much allegiance to the subjects of the State. On these grounds and on the last, but not the least, important ground that it is this scheme that is practically effacing out of cultivation area of 268 tenants, occupancy tenants, either cultivating themselves or through pankuvaram tenants or through others. These are actually effected out of their cultivation business and they are damnified to the extent of the products of their occupation. On these grounds, Sir, I respectfully beg to place before this House, my opposition to the grant and I pray that the Government may be pleased to sympathetically see the point that lies behind my opposition.

The House rose for lunch at 1-37 p.m. and reassembled at 2-30 p.m. with the Hon'ble the Diwan President in the Chair.

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR 1120

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—

Sir,

With your kind leave, Sir, I have the honour to present the Budget estimate of the State for 1120 M. E. (1944-45). While the budget before the House reveals a picture of growing recipts and swelling expenditure, it speaks also of the ceaseless strain on the administration to meet the ever-growing demands of the present, at the same time not forgetting what may be required of us in an uncertain post-war future.

When we met here last time to consider the budget an unprecedented crisis of famine was confronting us all; the hopeful signs of an allied victory were then only penetrating through the dark enshrouding clouds. A distinct change for the better in all spheres is now unfolded before our vision. We have through the timely assistance of the Central and Provincial Governments and the hearty and enduring co-operation of our people in the State, got through, though only temporarily, one of the worst food crisis that ever faced us. The ascendency of the United nations against the enemies has been clearly established both in the accident where the Hitlerites are reeling, staggering back under the giant blows dealt in the east, west and south and in the orient where the Nipponese have been brought to bay and are awaiting their doom. With victory in sight and with the grim vicissitudes of the food situation still before us, I shall, in a spirit of hope and faith, pass to a review of our accounts and our budgettary position.

ACCOUNTS OF 1118

When presenting the Budget estimates of the current year, I estimated on the basis of an improved revenue of Rs. 164·08 lakhs and of a total expenditure of Rs. 150·42 lakhs that the year 1118 would end with a surplus of Rs. 13·66 lakhs as against Rs. 3·18 lakhs originally estimated. The actual transactions of the year, however, resulted in a surplus of Rs. 26·21 lakhs due to further improvement in revenue to the extent of Rs. 6·52 lakhs and a fall in expenditure of Rs. 6·03 lakhs as compared with the Revised estimates. The increase in revenue was chiefly under Income-tax, Stamps and Abkari and Ganja while the saving in expenditure was mainly under forests and Tramway, Public Works and Miscellaneous.

Out of the realised surplus of Rs. 26·21 lakhs a sum of Rs. 20·00 lakhs is proposed to be transferred to the Revenue Reserve Fund which will then stand at Rs. 55·75 lakhs.

The State had at the end of the year a net asset of Rs. 123·03 lakhs over liabilities or Rs. 143·03 excluding the proposed transfer to Revenue Reserve Fund. The investments on Capital Outlay such as the Cochin Harbour, the Railway and Navigation Works etc. stood at Rs. 108·69 lakhs, and excluding loans and advances recoverable the total of the other investments stood at Rs. 90·46 lakhs.

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the resources are proving themselves to be inadequate to the expenditure. The Principality is having amenities and a standard of administration on the same high level as the State in all directions without regard to limitations of resources with the inevitable result of recurring deficits year after year. It is difficult to devise a solution; it is however sure that the State will continue to help and nurture her as in the past.

CONCLUSION

Sir, I have done. Our financial position so far has been quite sound and stable in spite of the universal stress and strain. Holding fast to well recognised principles of public finance we have till now steered clear of the shoals and dangers of a storm-tossed sea; but in the distant horizon is visible some dark clouds foreboding that the post-war period may not be as peaceful a smooth-sailing as hitherto. The economic blizzard which blasted all countries during the period following the last war cannot but be fresh in our memory. Many of the sources of our present high revenues may, for obvious reasons, possibly shrink or disappear. On the other hand, the expenditure will have a tendency to stick to the present level. In addition we may have to find funds for public utilities and post-war reconstruction schemes for which the Revenue Reserve Fund we are building up may not be adequate enough even to touch the fringes of the problem. New measures of taxation and fresh sources of revenue and all possible economies may then have to be thought of.

We are however, fortunate in that we have a legislature on whom we can always depend for guidance and co-operation, a Minister possessing the confidence of the House on whose support we can always count and above all 'a Sovereign whose sole pre-occupation is the progressive welfare of his subjects and who is assisted by a statesman whose breadth of vision and capacity for service are universally recognised. There is nothing that the State could not achieve under such inspiring circumstances'.

SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—*(cont.)*

76. Rs. 50,000 under "29—A—Civil Engineering—Irrigation Original"—*(cont.)*

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: Sir, on a point of information, may I know whether any amount out of the Rs. 22,580 shown against item No. 4 in the details has been recovered from the tenants who are really benefitted by the scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The whole of this Rs. 50,000 is proposed to be got back.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: In the light of that answer, may I know whether similar recoupments were made in regard to the expenditure in the year 1118.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: For the year 1118 no recoupments were made. Government specially ordered that no equipments need be effected on account of the floods and other such circumstances. But this year it has been definitely ordered that this money should be recouped from the kole land owners.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether this amount has been expended already, or whether it is to be expended hereafter.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The payment of compensation has not been made.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: May I know the total area of land affected by this scheme, and also the land actually benefitted by this scheme.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The area which was used for the storage of water is 608 acres. Of this 318 acres have already been given back to the cultivators for cultivation, so that the net area which had to be left fallow this year is only about 300 acres.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: May I know the total number of tenants who were actually prejudiced by this scheme as also the number of tenants who were actually benefitted by this scheme.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The area benefitted by this scheme is about 12 thousand acres.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: I mean the number of tenants.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: About the number of tenants, I have no clear idea.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: What is the additional quantity of paddy expected from these lands?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* As I have already stated by this scheme it was possible to protect an area of about 12,000 acres for the kole crops.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi).* Formerly what was the yield from these 12,000 acres?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* About 12,000 acres of land used to be prejudiced if there are no rains in the months of February to April and there used to be drought and consequent loss of crops. It was only to safeguard that contingency that this scheme was done last year.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* What I want to know is about the yield?

Mr. President: I think rather than conduct this cross examination of the Chief Engineer, it would be well if he made a statement on the scheme for which this money is demanded. It will be more in order with the general rules of the debate.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Sir, I have also to place before this Hon'ble House certain aspects of the scheme regarding the expenditure on which this cut motion is tabled. The idea behind the whole scheme seems to be that by submerging a certain extent of cultivable land comprised of kole lands, mundakan and viruppu lands, a greater area of kole lands will be benefitted. Therefore on the principle that the lesser is being sacrificed for the larger this scheme is seen to be launched upon. That seems to be the idea behind the scheme. If there is any fallacy in the premises then the whole thing must fall and I maintain that the premises are wrong. The object seems to be to save kole lands from a possible drought. But the citation given by the Hon'ble Mover of the motion from the budget proceedings of last year contains definite statements made by the Hon'ble Member for Public Works to the effect that that aspect of the question very drought can be met and successfully met by keeping the level at its normal order not raising the level of the Enamakkal bund as observed by the hon'ble mover. My hon'ble friend the mover of the cut motion was saying that the Chief Engineer had stated then that by raising the level of the Enamakkal bund slightly, the drought can be prevented. On the other hand you will be pleased to find, Sir, that the Chief Engineer said then that even by keeping the Enamakkal bund level at its normal, drought could be prevented. What is really sought to be done by the scheme seems to be to help the kole land owner to cultivate without spending. In the circumstances obtaining today the difficulties of obtaining bamboo for bunding purposes, the difficulties of getting pumps and necessary machinery for pumping operations the kole land owner has to spend heavily to raise crops. All these could be obviated by reducing the normal level of the Enamakkal lake. That amounts to saying that the kole owners can successfully raise crops without spending as much as they used to spend before by an operation on the part of the Government by reducing the level of the Enamakkal bund. If the level is reduced as much of bunding will not be necessary as before and as much pumping also will not be necessary. In effect it comes to this. I am constrained to observe, Sir, that with a view to benefit the kole owners—and when I use the expression "kole owners"—I have in mind only the fat kole owners, not the little man who has only a few acres of land, but who own extensive areas from which they grow, from year to year, fatter and fatter—it is that class of kole owners that are benefitted by this scheme—the Government have to take up this scheme. So the thing reduces itself to this. With a view to help them, the Government decided to spend from public funds and they did spend and have now come to this House with a request that the same may be allowed for meeting the expenditure of working the same departmentally as also for compensating the poor small holders of land in the submerged area. That is the item before us. Now, Sir, although the amount has been asked for it is stated in the answer given to a point of information that was asked for here that it is proposed that the whole amount spent on this scheme should be recovered from the owners of the kole lands benefitted by the scheme. As yet it has not been done is also admitted. I am not sure whether it is going to be done either. I have my own misgivings in that matter. With regard to the payment of compensation, as pointed out by the Hon'ble mover of the cut motion, compensation in money for agricultural products that a small cultivator may get by ploughing his own land a reaping the harvest is a very poor compensation and as is seen from the experience of 1118 the compensation paid is very very low. I know for a fact, Sir, and I have no hesitation to assert before this House, that compensation has not been paid fully even with regard to the amounts due for 1118. There are still compensation awards pending payment. As pointed out by the Hon'ble Mover again, compensation is not worked out on a very satisfactory basis. I am sure the Hon'ble Member for Revenue will not assert before this House that compensation awards are looked into very thoroughly by examination on the spot by responsible officers like the

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Diwan Peishkar. It is not possible in the very nature of things The Diwan Peishkar necessarily has to depend upon the reports of his subordinate officers from the village parvathiam onwards. I leave the subject there. I shall only say that it is not satisfactorily done.

Now on the merits of the scheme, I am of opinion that this sacrifice of the small owners of lands in this Mullurkayal area is not a sacrifice which is worth making. Then upon the principle. Is it not an insult to this House to be asked to vote for an amount which has been already spent by the Government? Sir, there are only three known methods of asking for funds in this Council. The first thing is to ask for an item of expenditure on a demand during the budget time. If there is any expenditure to be subsequently incurred, a new item of expenditure to be incurred after the Budget or amounts not found sufficient in the budget demand, then there is provision for supplementary grant being asked for. Then, of course, in urgent matters, like any urgent expenditure to be met, before there is a chance of meeting of this Council, there is the provision in the Legislative Council Act to incur the expenditure and place statement, and we get samples of that,—of course to the credit of the Government it may be said it is reduced to the irreducible minimum in every meeting. We have samples of that sort of expenditure placed on the table even today. This is legitimately provided under clause 16 of the Act. If really it is a case of amount having been already spent. Opportunities there were many, I believe, 2, or possibly 3, at the three meetings of the Legislative Session, or at least in the Makaram and Meenam meetings this amount could well have been asked for and if granted, spent, if refused, certified and spent, if the expenditure is considered absolutely necessary. Without even resorting to any of these, now at the fag end of the year and when the whole scheme of compensation is not worked out, as I know for a fact, an amount to the tune of Rs. 50,000 is asked for. I am sure more for payment of compensation, with regard to the damages caused to cultivators in 1119 will certainly be asked for hereafter. All this is a sort of shilly-shally way of doing things and throwing insult in the face of this House. I ask whether the House is prepared to submit itself to this insult? I hope, Sir, that the Council will rise to the occasion and do what is necessary in the matter. I support the cut motion.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Sir, In connection with this Mullurkkayal scheme I had an opportunity of studying the scheme in its early stage when I was also a member of the Irrigation Board for Trichur group area. As to the allegation made by the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri that it is only benefitting the richer landlord it is not wholly true. Of course the richer landlords are also benefitted by that. There are a good number of small agriculturists. It so happens that in that particular area some of the extensive lands are held by rich agriculturists. But that does not mean that the foodcrops that we have to grow for the food of our people should be reduced by droughts or rather seasonal difficulties simply because those lands belong to big landlords. It so happened that on the 1st of May myself and the Hon'ble Member for Irinjalakkuda happened to visit a common friend of ours who was a small holder. By chance when we were talking about this Mullurkkayal Scheme he said that because of this storing he got all the produce of the kole lands of which he was the owner. Then I was thinking during those days whether the scheme to which I was a signatory was a failure at all because I have been receiving complaints even in my official capacity about the compensation to be paid to some of those poor families of soldiers. As far as the payment of compensation is concerned I fully agree with the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri. There has been inordinate delay and I request the Diwan Peishkar himself to see to the payment of the compensation as early as possible. And that the payment also be made not according to the strict rules on calculation of the extent or cost of the paddy which they would otherwise have got when they sell the grain to the Government. But some more compensation has to be paid because every holder of a land would be entitled to get more of his produce for his own consumption. Because of the storage scheme some adjoining lands are also flooded. I know of cases where kole cultivators who have cultivated land without leasing it out to verumpattomdars have lost all the crops because of the fact that water stored in the Mullurkkayal Scheme was overflowing to the other lands also. The Hon'ble Member for Mulakunnathukavu has intimate knowledge of the conditions of his own constituency and so such complaints ought to be avoided as far as possible and especially these poor cultivators must be given sufficient compensation because we have a good surplus in our Budget so that there should not be any complaint from these poor people On the whole, I cannot agree with the mover and supportor of the motion that the scheme is going to be a failure or not intended in the best interests of the paddy cultivation in the State. It is after all a trial for three years and we have experimented it only for one year and if during this crisis of food shortage somehow or other a larger quantity of paddy can be obtained it must be considered to be a very desirable scheme and it is in the

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larger interests of the people of the State that by reserving an area of 200 or 300 acres of land for water storage 12,000 acres of paddy growing area have been benefitted whether it belongs to the rich man or the poor man. So I do not wholly support the cut motion. Yet the Government should take a more sympathetic view in the payment of compensation and also see that as much smaller areas of land as possible are utilised for the storage and that by over flowing of water crops in other lands are not destroyed.

I may also add in this connection that three weeks back, I think, the bund under the bridge in the Parappur Road was not wholly removed by the contractors. These contractors are also to some extent the cause of these complaints. So that aspect also must be considered and the time of bunding and the removal of the bund ought to be carefully looked into, because the more food crops we cultivate the more people are benefited

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* I support the cut motion with certain conditions. Now, I have received a copy of a petition presented to the Diwan by the people of the locality. It is signed by many people with whom I am acquainted and some are very respectable and their complaint is that they are very much aggrieved by this acquisition by the Sirkar of these paddy lands. Now, under ordinary circumstances lands cannot be acquired unless it is for some public benefit. 300 acres of land is utilised for storing water for irrigation purposes and the Chief Engineer was pleased to say that 12,000 acres will be benefitted. I want further information. What will be the result after this irrigation work is taken up. Will the yield be affected. What was the average income from these 12,000 acres of kole niloms and if this new scheme is taken up what will be income. We have to take into consideration the amount spent for acquiring the rights of the tenants. On that point I am not satisfied with the figures given. The Government also have no figures.

Then there is the other question regarding compensation. In our State in olden times people were anxious that the Sirkar should acquire lands because they got very liberal prices. Now it is in the other way. People are against Sirkar acquiring lands because their complaint is that the compensation is very meagre. In a case like this where it is causing so much hardship to the people I think the Sirkar should not be niggardly but should be very liberal. Therefore, if this scheme is to be taken up, it should be beneficial to the State, *i. e.*, more paddy should be produced than otherwise we will get from these 300 acres and secondly liberal compensation should be paid. On these conditions I support the cut.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. എൻ. ഇട്ടിരവിനമ്പൂതിരിപ്പാട്: സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ എതിർക്കുന്നു. മുള്ളർക്കായൽ സ്കീംവക്കുചെയ്യുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള വിമർശനമാണു് ഇവിടെ നടന്നതു്. ആ സ്കീം വക്കുചെയ്യണമൊ വേണ്ടയൊ എന്നുള്ളതാണു് ആദ്യമായി ആലോചിക്കാനുള്ളതു്. ൧൯൨൪-ൽ വർഷംകൊണ്ടു കൃഷി മുഴവൻ നശിച്ചുവെന്നറിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ ഈ രാജ്യക്കാരും കൌൺസിലും വളരെ പരിഭ്രമിച്ചു. അതുപോലെയുള്ള ഒരു സ്ഥിതി ഈ സ്റ്റോറേജില്ലായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ഈ കൊല്ലവും വന്നിരുന്നേനെ. ഇതുവിടെ ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടാണു് മുക്കാലെ മുണ്ടാണിഭാഗം കൃഷിക്കും ഗുണം കിട്ടുവാൻ സാധിച്ചതു്. ഇതുമൂലം, ൩൦൦ ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലത്തു കൃഷിചെയ്യുവാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ലെങ്കിലും, ൧൨,൦൦൦ ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലത്തുള്ള കൃഷിയെ ഇതിനു സംരക്ഷിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതു് വലിയൊരു കാര്യമാണു്. ഏതായാലും വലിയതു ചെറിയതിനെ തിന്നിട്ടാണു് ജീവിക്കുന്നതു് (ചിരി) വലുതു് ചെറിയതിനെതിനു ജീവിക്കുകയെന്നുള്ളതു് ലോകനടപടിയാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഇതുവിടെ ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നുള്ളതിനെക്കുറിച്ചു ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടു കാര്യമില്ല.

പിന്നെ മുള്ളർക്കായലിൽതന്നെ വേണൊ വെള്ളംകയറി നിറ്റുവാൻ എന്നു ചോദിച്ചാൽ നെല്ലിയാംപതിയിൽ നിറ്ത്തിയാലും വിരോധമില്ല. വെള്ളംകിട്ടിയാൽ മതിയെന്നെ പറയുന്നുള്ളൂ. മുള്ളർക്കായൽ സ്കീം വേറെ ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തു വക്കുചെയ്യാമെന്നുവെക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ൩ ആയിരം ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലം ഇനിയും അതിലേക്കെടുക്കേണ്ടിവരും. വേറൊയാന്നുപറഞ്ഞതു് എനാമാക്കൽ ബണ്ടിനു ലവലുണ്ടാക്കിയാൽ മതിയെന്നാണു്. ൭൦൦ൽചില്വാനം കൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പു് അവിടെ ഒരുരും കൃഷിചെയ്തുകപതിവില്ല. അവിടെവെള്ളം Reduce ചെയ്യുവാൻ സാധിച്ചതുകൊണ്ടാണു് കൃഷിചെയ്യുവാൻ തുടങ്ങിയതു്. ആളുകളെ നിറ്ത്തി വെള്ളം പമ്പുചെയ്തുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഈ ൧൨,൦൦൦ ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലത്തു കൃഷിചെയ്യുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമൊ എന്നുള്ളതു് ബുദ്ധിപൂർവ്വം ആലോചിക്കേണ്ട ഒരു കാര്യമാണു്. അതു സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. ഇന്നത്തെനിലക്കു അതിനുവേണ്ട കൂലിക്കാരെ കിട്ടുവാനില്ല. സാധനങ്ങളും കിട്ടുവാനില്ല. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളുള്ളപ്പോൾ ഈ ൧൨,൦൦൦ ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലത്തു കൃഷിചെയ്യേണ്ട എന്നു വിചാരിച്ചിട്ടാണു് ഇതുവിടെ വേണ്ട എന്നു പറയുന്നതെങ്കിൽ ഇതു പാ

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സാക്കാം. വിരിപ്പുകൃഷിക്കു, വർഷക്കാലത്തുതന്നെ മഴ പെയ്യാതിരിക്കുന്നതുമൂലം വെള്ളംകിട്ടാതെ ദോഷംവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുമാരനെഴുത്തച്ഛൻ: അതു് അനീതി വരുത്തിച്ചിട്ടാണു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. എൻ. ഇട്ടിരവിനമ്പൂതിരിപ്പാട്: അനീതി എല്ലാവരുടേയും ഇടയിൽ ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടായിരിക്കാം ഇങ്ങിനെ വന്നതു്. കന്നിന്റെ മകളിലുംപോയി കൃഷിചെയ്യുവാൻ ആളുകൾ ഒരുങ്ങുന്ന ഒരു കാലമാണിതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു യുക്തം കഴിയുന്നതുവരെയെങ്കിലും ഈ സ്കീം ഏതെങ്കിലുംവിധത്തിൽ നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതു് നല്ലതെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ശക്തിയായി ഞാൻ എതിർക്കുന്നു.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, the question of supplying additional irrigation water to the 12,000 acres of kole lands has been engaging the attention of this House for very many years. Many schemes have been devised. The Chalakdudi Irrigation Scheme and the Naduthodu scheme, have been initiated and suggested for this one purpose and it has been generally accepted that without additional irrigation the cultivators of these 12,000 acres of kole land would be in a very precarious condition. It was about 15 years ago that the Kuttadan cultivation was started in the kole area. As a result of this Kuttadan cultivation certain amount of the kole area did not require water during the dry season. Also in the area under Kuttadan some water could be stored which could be utilised for kole cultivation during the dry season. With that change in the mode of cultivation in the kole area, there was a favourable turn in this drought question. But still that question remained and we have been trying to increase the storage in the kole channels by keeping the height of water at Enamakkal as high as possible. We have found that that the greatest height to which we can raise the water was about 1 foot 6 inches. If this water is raised any higher it became extremely difficult for the ryots to keep the kole bunds in tact. If the height of water is increased the kole bunds may breach and cause considerable damage to crops. I was very nervous to advise the Goverument not to take up this Mulloorkayal scheme because in case there was a drought and in case there was a total failure of crop our responsibility would have been very great. That is the reason why I advised the Government that in order to safeguard this contingency it is our duty at least this year or at least till this food situation becomes normal, to take up the scheme of supplying water to the kole lands. I now find that had this work not been done in 1119 there would have been a serious drought and a very large acreage would have suffered for want of water. If such a thing had happened what would be the scene in this Council today ? My position then would have been very much more difficult to maintain than now. What has happened now is this. Out of this 600 acres of land, 315 have already been cultivated with Kuttadan crop and if conditions were a little more favourable I would have cultivated all the 600 acres. The real loss of cropped area was small while by this scheme it has been possible to definitely safeguard the interest of a tax area of kole lands. That is all what I have to say in explanation. I again request this House will be pleased to vote the additional grant.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I would just like to add a few words with the permission of the Chair. On the question of compensation certain statements are made here both attacking the amount of compensation that is being given and also the long delays in the matter of payment of compensation. Both these, I presume, are more or less based upon a want of understanding of all the facts of the case. When the Government presented to this House the Irrigation Amendment Act in the year 1117 or 1116 a general statement was made before this House that that Act was intended for the purpose of enabling the Government to charge or recover from those benefitted by any experimental irrigation work amounts that the Government have to spend for the purpose of paying compensation to those whose lands may have to be submerged and also for pumping in water for storing more water. At that time it was definitely stated that the area that was being chosen for the purpose was the worst of the kole areas and investigations which were made in those days revealed the fact that among this 600 acres there were large areas, a big portion of them, so to say, which did not yield even the stipulated pattam to the jenmi. Those were got surrendered for self-cultivation from the tenants without realising a single grain of pattam for some years because the tenant himself could not raise as much as was necessary for cultivation expenses. The jenmi had to pay from his pocket for the Government assessment. The jenmi therefore thought that the better course would be to take back the property from the tenant so that he may try to cultivate something and pay himself towards the assessment which he had to pay from out of his pocket at that time. The tenant not being a gainer by keeping the property in his possession surrendered. That was the nature of the kole area of 600 and odd acres. We have got registered documents of

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leases and releases. I am speaking from my knowledge of registered documents. Apart from the question of the small figure of 600 when compared with the figure of 12,000 going to be benefitted there was this additional thing which encouraged us. There is absolutely not much harm going to be done when we look at the comparative benefit that is going to accrue from this. The question was rightly put as to what exactly was the figure by which the produce was going to be increased. It is not an easy task to answer this question. One thing has to be noted. This was a scheme which was placed before the Irrigation Board. It was a matter of anxious consideration for the Board to launch upon the irrigation scheme which would save 12,000 acres from drought. There is the dangerous risk of two things. The Chief Engineer mentioned only one. If the level is kept up even if there is drought it does not matter very much. There is the other thing. If the level has to be kept up it is not enough if we shut the Enamakkal bund. If we do that then we will have hundreds of Mulloorkayals. What happens is we have to store this water for three months. We have to store water before we sow the seed for being used, for at least 75 days of the whole kole operations. We have to keep this water at a high level. What is the effect of keeping such a high level of water upon these small bunds? It breaks the bund. If the bund gives way at one place the whole of that area, 500, 600 acres becomes flooded. That is another Mulloorkayal. We have had experience of this many a time. In the month of December I have received telegrams, the Chief Engineer has received telegrams saying "Bunds broken. The whole area flooded. It has to be repumped". Sometimes they are able to do it, sometimes not. What happens is if rains come early enough or one or more rains come. That also adds to the high level of water in the chal with the result that the bunds give way. Sometimes it so happens that the bunds give way at a very late stage of the cultivation. The devastation caused is not small. If by chance the pumping operations begin late—there have been people who to save a little of the expenses begin the pumping operations late because the level will be lower—when we want to draw water we cannot draw enough water from the chals because the level of the water is already down and the drought spoils the whole crop. So we were facing two risks, one on account of the late operations of pumping in times of drought, the other was early operations of pumping and a few rains. Sometimes less water and sometimes more. That was the condition in which the kole cultivators were suffering from year to year. There is no question here of a small man or a big man. If the small man happens to be in the big area he is also affected. So far as the kole areas are concerned almost all are big areas. The pumping operations involve such a large expenditure. It is, therefore, not to save small lands. It so happens that kole areas are owned by big men. We are only concerned with areas. Let us forget for the moment who is the man that is benefitted. This point was, to some extent at any rate, placed before the House at that time when this Bill was presented. Probably people did not attach much importance to them at that time. All the same it was a scheme which was launched after mature deliberation. As the Chief Engineer stated they were very very anxious to see how this big area could be saved from this devastation. We have to depend upon two things, the rain and the sun.

Now coming to the question of compensation I just explained the nature of the lands which we were going to submerge. As decided from those documents, it will be seen that in some years we get excellent crops and in some years we get bad crops. It is quite possible. But the pattom that is fixed is more or less an indication of the net yield which the jenmi would get. It is not that yield that I have given as compensation. From the compensation that I have given both the tenant and the jenmi get their share. I have been liberal knowing fully well that there is a black market in these days and every man however big or small, tries his best to take a little out of the Tahsilders' vigilant eye and some how makes something. That is a fact which everybody knows. Every Tahsildar is not in a position to catch hold of every individual. The area is so vast and the number is so large and the number of officers is so very limited. I have given some consideration for that also. I cannot make a very big gift of Government money. That is with regard to the quantum of compensation. It has been so to the best of my knowledge though I did not myself go and inspect all the areas. That is perfectly correct. We have to depend to a very large extent upon these officers. In this particular thing I returned the thing to the Tahsildar three times asking him to go and verify personally and get me these figures. From the very beginning of this scheme we have been getting complaints, not so much about compensation. There is another advantage. The cultivation of this 600 acres is in the hands of a large number of cultivators. The number will come to five hundred or six hundred. If they get rations it will be one-third of what an agriculturist would get. If he were an agriculturist he will get three paras per head. In this case, he will get hardly one para. Apart from

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the question of black market there is this advantage which he loses. Certainly the pinch of the belly will drive him to bawl out in all possible ways and make his position felt.

Mr. T. A. Ramachadra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Why not give him compensation in kind?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* That is an entirely different matter. The Diwan Peishkar can give only the price of the paddy or any other thing which is lost to the man by his being deprived of cultivation. That is the only thing which he can do. That is not a matter with which I am concernced as awarding officer.

Then with reference to delays in the payment of compesation. No doubt, there have been delays in the sense that some persons have not yet been paid. But what is the cause of those delays is the most important thing. Every man who appeared to receive the compensation on the days fixed for it was paid. He was not asked to come tomorrow because we have no money or convenience. It was continued from day to day for five days or so in the Mundur Village Office. The Tahsildar himself went and remained there for five days or so. It was continued from day to day. Every man that came and satisfied the conditions of the award was paid. Some condition in the award were these—Janmi's dues must be paid and receipts should be produced. The man was not in a position to bring all receipts. He had to be asked to come on another occasion after satisfying the conditions. We are bound to do it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* It is not possible.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I have seen any number of cases in which that condition is being satisfied even today.

Then, suppose there are five persons. We do not know whether it is a family property The karanavan may come and say it is his property. The document may stand in his name. Unless we pay to the proper person we won't get a proper discharge. Otherwise the Government will have to pay to the real claimants. If the Government have to pay we will have to pay from our own pockets, which is really a contingency which we want to avoid. It is just like your purchasing property from another person. Similarly Government is paying down cash. The man who is bound to receive it must show that he is the sole person entitled to it. There are these difficulties. There is no use of having sweeping criticism to the effect that there are delays. We are not profited by any delay. The day on which the money is not paid it is deposited into the treasury in the name of that person. That is how things are done. Therefore, to have a wholesale condemnation saying that these payments are delayes, without going into the reasons for those delays, I submit, is rather unjust. If there is difficulty with regard to the amount of compensation there is the Court. Last year out of the 300 and odd cases, not one case has gone to the court. There was one exception and that again not on account of the quantum of compensation. Between the parties themselves they could not agree. One man was claiming it as per a will. Another man was claiming it saying that the property cannot be given away in that way. When there was that difference and that had to be taken to the court they said we want enhanced compensation. If the other thing was not there, probably they may not have asked for enhanced compensation at all. I am as liberal as possible consistent with the safety of Government. This year one thing. of course, was noticed That is, the straw, to some extent, in some cases was spoiled. That is a point which I have taken note of and I am trying to see whether anything cannot be given on that account.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whethey anybody has claimed compensation for the flooding of the area which is not demarcated for storage purposes?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* The remarks which I made last relate only to that. With reference to the kole area of 600 and odd acres the whole thing was left uncultivated and there is no question of payment of compensation for spoiling crops. With reference to the mundakan area it was about to be harvested. When we pumped in water, they were not according to them in a position to save their crops completely from being submerged. To some extent their straw was spoilt though they were able to reap the paddy. That is what they say. I am trying to see whether I can give them something for this straw spoiled.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Was there no loss of paddy?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* No loss of paddy. There was discolouration of paddy in some instances, because some stumps fell down on account of the raising of the level of the water. Within less than seven days the paddy was harvested. I had myself gone and seen it. The Assistant Engineer and the Tahsildar went. The people were not satisfied. The Chief Engineer, it being the Christmas vacasion was away. I went and had more or less a view not of the whole area but a large number of paddy fields. This is what I saw. They said in another week at the most they would be able to reap the whole harvest. On account of the

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straw having been spoiled there was discolouration of some of the grains. That is true. They have not lost anything.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)* : Sir, I am very thankful for the contributions made by the Hon' ble Members to the discussion and I am thankful for the explanations given by both the Chief Engineer and the Hon' ble Member for Revenue. I have got to place before this Hon' ble House aspects on which I have not been enlightened upon by either the Hon'ble Member for Revenue or for Engineering. The economic aspect of that so far as I can gather and work out on arithmetical calculation I humbly place for their consideration. It is seen or rather I could learn form the statistics I could gather from elsewhere as well as form the Hon' ble Members for Engineering and Revenue from a talk I had on this matter that the entire area occupied by this scheme is 950 and odd acres. From the Council Proceedings it will be seen that it is conceded that on the least estimate twofold pattom for the very bad and eightfold pattom maximum for the best property available in the locality are the two extreme classes.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* : The figure 900 acres is not at all correct. The whole area that is submerged will not go beyond 620. This year it was 608. That is the kole area that can never be cultivated. Attempt is being made to cultivate a portion of it with kuttadan this year. But the other area is an area that can be cultivated and was cultivated and fully harvested this year. Mundakan or Viruppu or Kuttadan, these weve being cultivated. It was that crops at the time of the harvest that was to some extent affected and for which they want damages.

Mr. K.Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)* : I am thankful for the explanation. I beg to submit Sir that I got these figures from the table. When we had a talk about this this area was admitted before the executive head of the State as the area affected by the scheme. 608 acres that is the area under kole or punja-which cannot be cultivated and the balance working about a total of 950 and odd acres was the area that is affected by the scheme. I relied upon that and made this humble statement before the Hon'ble House. I calculate that at the rate of tenfold yield and ask the Hon'ble Member whether it is not over a lakh and something that is lost as paddy returned. Are they getting anything more than that by the storage of water here and if not why is the sort of intensive cultivtion. My submission is that when the actuals are taken the quantity will be much less than can be realised by the cultivation of that area. Therefore it is poor consolation to preach the principle of the survival of the fittest. But this is not like that. This is an economic ruin.

Upon the second aspect that the drought could not have been saved otherwise is yet another argument which I have to meet. Last year the entire kole corp was lost not because of drought but because of heavy rains. When a deluge came and washed out the whole thing away it was said that it was due to the vicissitudes of the season. I put it again to the Hon'ble House whether there is this scheme or not we have to depend upon the vicissitudes of season in kole cultivation and that is, therofore, no apology for having this scheme.

The third point on which I would respectfully answer the Hon'ble Member for Revenue is regarding the compensation. I know Sir, from papers I had occasion to peruse that large numbers were taken in by the notices under the awards and when awards were actually passed large numbers of them are seen deleted there remaining only a few. If instances are wanted, if the Hon'ble Member for Revenue will give me some time in the evenings of one of these days I will be able to place facts with papers before him and substantiate my statement. It is, therefore, most painful that these tenants who have been ousted of their property are not given adequate compensation.

The last argument, but not the least important, was that the damage was to the straw and not to the paddy. It is curious that when the straw is under water these stems over which the grain is, maintained them from damage, for fear of the Government or of the Revenue Member the grain do not get damaged. It is something which is news to me. And further that some colour might have been lost is yet something which is too much for us to believe. It is common experience to those who have been brought up in Malabar that there will not be a single grain of paddy in the whole stem which will not rout out if it is kept under water for four days. I respectfully beg to submit that the Government may be pleased to direct the Diwan Peishkar to revise his opinion.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* : The grain was certainly not in water. The grain was all above water. The water was only up to the stalk. The grain was not submerged in water. The whole of it was above water. Please don't say what I did not say.

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Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* I submit, Sir, that the explanation has not taken me any further from my point. Once it is wet it comes down under the weight of grain to the lowest level and it will be floating on water. With all deference to the Hon'ble Member for Revenue I submit that this piece of explanation is most unscientific. Nothing more, nothing less. Now, that the whole matter has been placed before the Hon'ble House and on the consideration that the amount has to be paid as compensation, I urge upon the Hon'ble Member for Revenue to reconsider the position and to give relief to these poor tenants and provide against forfeiture under the Verumpattamdars Act. With this request placed before the Hon'ble Government I beg leave of the House to withdraw this motion.

Motion, by leave withdrawn

Demand put and carried

77. Rs. 13,575 under "29-A—Civil Engineering—Communication Original"

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional grant of Rs. 13,575 under "29 A. Civil Engineering—Communication Original". This money is required for the work of metalling the first section of the Chalakkudi-Koramala Road which has come now into great importance. Several tons of timber and fuel as well as tapioca have to be transported through that road and so this work has to be taken up urgently. I request the House may be pleased to grant this amount.

Demand put and carried

78. Rs. 15,898 under "29-A—Civil Engineering—Maintenance"

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 15,898 under "29 A. Civil Engineering—Maintenance". This amount is required for additional payment to the Municipalities for the maintenance of their roads. We used to contribute a certain amount of money to all the Municipalities of the State for the maintenance of trunk roads. Now on account of the war conditions and consequent on the increase of maintenance charges, the Municipalities had been requesting the Government for increased grant for maintenance. It is to meet this expenditure that this grant is now being made. I request the House may be pleased to grant the amount.

Demand put and carried

79. Rs. 13,765 under "29-A1. Civil Egineering—Establishment Charges"

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 13,765 under "29. A-1—Civil Engineering—Establishment Charges—Dearness Allowance". It is for dearness allowance. I request that the House may be pleased to grant the allotment.

Demand put and carried

80. Rs. 305 under "29-A-1—Civil Engineering—Contingency rent"

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, I rise to move for an addtional allotment of Rs. 305 under "29-A-1—Civil Engineering—Contingency rent". I request the House may be pleased to grant the allotment.

Demand put and carried

81. Rs. 42,000 under "29-A. 1—Tools and plant"

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, I rise to move for additional allotment of Rs. 42,000 under "29-A-1—Tools and plants". This expenditure is in connection with the manufacture of pumps for the Kole drainage scheme. These pumps had to be manufactured very urgently as it was found that this year's Kole cultivation would be seriously jeopardised if we had not got our own pumps for drainage purposes. Accordingly we got these pumps made locally and for that purpose this expenditure has been incurred. These pumps are still with us and it is a capital investment. I request the House may be pleased to grant this allotment.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Sir, I have tabled a cut-motion for eliciting some information and if that information is supplied I do not move the motion formally.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* That is a capital expenditure. This represents the cost of pumps which we manufactured. We are hiring out these pumps to the ryots. Last year we hired these pumps at the rate of Rs. 15 a horse-power.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Did you manufacture these pumps last year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* No. We manufactured them this year.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* All these items of Rs. 42,000 are capital outlay and the amounts cannot be realised.

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